

## Defend freedom – practice respectfulness to religions

By Chaplain (Maj.)  
Karen Diefendorf  
Religious Retreat Center director

Shortly after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, the U. S. government decided to put all Japanese-Americans into camps. This was supposed to ensure other Americans would be safe. The problem was that we forgot those of Japanese descent were also Americans, just as loyal as any other U. S. citizen who also mourned Pearl Harbor. They simply didn't get the opportunity to demonstrate their loyalty since they were judged by their race first.

No one consciously wants to repeat what we all have been ashamed of in our past. It's the unconscious part of our actions that can sabotage us though.

As restrictions are reduced, as threat levels are lowered and as life returns to a more normal state, we all need to be aware of our reactions to other people, particularly those of Arab or Middle Eastern countries. Arab-Americans and other Muslim people mourn the Pentagon and World Trade Center tragedies.

You may not be able to stop certain feelings from coming to the sur-

face, but you can and should bring them to consciousness so that you confront the lies in them. No one "has" to act on his or her feelings.

I urge all Americans, civilian or servicemember, to be respectful of others' freedoms.

There are thousands of Muslims in Korea with more than 100,000 Muslims living and working in the Seoul area.

Not far from Yongsan stands a Mosque. Those of you who go to "the hill" in Itaewon may come into contact with people who practice the Islamic faith. They are not terrorists. They simply want the freedom to worship as they see fit.

By defending freedom, you are announcing to the world that the freedoms in our constitution are basic human rights, not just Americans' rights. You represent our constitution and the values we say we hold dear. Make sure your actions are carefully considered.

Make sure your actions represent all that you have sworn to support and defend. Don't fall prey to some unconscious part of you. "A simple man believes anything, but a prudent man gives thought to his steps," Proverbs 14:15

## Patriotism burns brighter than ever

By Maj. John McGarrity  
8th Mission Support Squadron commander

I finished my first draft of this commentary late one evening. The short version went something like this: with no foe before us, we who wear the uniform today are very different from 94 percent of Americans who have never worn the uniforms. We are better, for we understand what patriotism is all about since we are ready to give our lives. We are the elite that our country has to offer.

After finishing for the night, I went home, turned on the TV and watched the world change before my eyes.

Over the next several days I read stories, saw images and studied commentaries relating to the attack on our country. Each day brought new stories of heroism, courage, dogged unfailing effort, and undying hope. And like many, I ran through a gamut of emotions that included pain, sorrow, defilement, anger and helplessness. With each passing day, I started sensing, feeling something different – patriotism.

I thought maybe the rest of the country had forgotten the meaning of the word. I had heard it preached from pulpits, academically argued, and noted in newspaper commentaries that patriotism was indeed dead. How? A reason often cited was the economic success of the 1990s with its unparalleled growth in the United States economy. Our nation's

economic successes had in fact turned us into a country that stood for the almighty dollar and what it could buy.

I looked around and saw that it was true. Twenty-somethings were buying million-dollar homes based on their successes in the stock market. Employees of "dot.com" companies were getting a free car or tens of thousands of dollars as bonuses.

All the while looking at airmen in the Pentagon, who worked 50 to 60 hours a week, making just enough money to stay off food stamps. Watching all of the services struggle to meet recruiting goals and hearing any number of paid consultants tell the entire Department of Defense that our mission is out of touch with the youth of today and what they want from life – I wasn't the only one who got it wrong.

Over the last couple of weeks, we have all heard stories and seen images that have moved our hearts. The firemen and police responding to the Trade Towers, Old Glory's return to every home in America, and the world stopping for a few moments to share our grief and loss.

Those who attacked us Sept. 11 have fanned the ember of patriotism into a firestorm which they will have to deal with.

We are now a nation at war and as Sen. John McCain said on the Senate floor on the day of the attacks: "I say to our enemies, we are coming. God may show you mercy. We will not."

Got a story  
idea?

Interested in  
putting your  
writing abilities  
to work?

Would you like  
to see your  
name in print?

Contact the *Wolf Pack Warrior*  
at 782-4705 or e-mail  
[WolfPackWarrior@kunsan.af](mailto:WolfPackWarrior@kunsan.af).

**Question:** Retreat is played at 5 p.m. daily and "Taps" is played at 10 p.m. Why isn't reveille played in the morning?

**Answer:** Thank you for raising the question. Here at Kunsan, we have chosen to raise the flags in a silent ceremony as part of reveille. During the mid-afternoon, the flags are lowered at retreat while the Korean and United States national anthems are played. "Call to quarters," or taps, is played in the late evening. I had not given this much thought until you asked the question. I agree with you – we should play reveille when the flags are raised and will start soon. Reveille and retreat are traditions that honor the flag and serve to remind us of the importance of our profession we have chosen, the oath we took, and the demands placed upon us as members of the profession of arms – now more than ever.

## Commander's Hotline

*The commander's hotline is your direct line of communication between me and the Wolf Pack. It's one of several means of helping to resolve concerns and to get my response to comments and questions. As a general rule, I ask you to contact the agency involved first, but if you are not satisfied, call the hotline at 782-5284, e-mail the 8th Fighter Wing Public Affairs office or e-mail me directly.*



Col. Burt Field  
8th Fighter Wing commander

### Who to call

Base exchange.....	782-4520
Chapel.....	782-4300
Civil engineer squadron customer service.....	782-5318
Commissary manager.....	782-4144
Computer help desk.....	782-2666
Fitness center.....	782-4026
Housing office.....	782-4088
Inspector General.....	782-4850
IDEA office.....	782-4020
Law enforcement desk.....	782-4944
Legal assistance.....	782-4283
Military equal opportunity.....	782-4055
Military pay.....	782-5574
Military personnel flight customer service.....	782-5276
Medical patient advocate.....	782-4014



### Wolf Pack WARRIOR Editorial staff

Col. Burt Field.....8th Fighter Wing commander  
1st Lt. Miki Krejcarek.....chief, public affairs  
1st Lt. Ben Frankenfield.....deputy chief, public affairs  
MSgt. Michael Casados.....superintendent, public affairs  
SSgt. Heather Shelton.....chief, internal information  
A1C Brian Hill.....editor

This funded Air Force newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. military services overseas. Contents of the *Wolf Pack Warrior* are not necessarily the official view of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense or the Department of the Air Force.

The editorial content is edited, prepared, and provided by the 8th Fighter Wing Public Affairs office of Kunsan Air Base, Republic of Korea, which is located at Building 1305. The public affairs address

is 8th FW/PA, PSC 2 Box 2090, APO AP 96264.

Deadline for submissions to the *Wolf Pack Warrior* is no later than Thursday, 4:30 p.m., one week prior to publication.

The preferred medium for submission is e-mail to [WolfPackWarrior@kunsan.af](mailto:WolfPackWarrior@kunsan.af).

Faxes and typewritten submissions are also accepted.

The voice mail to 8th Fighter Wing Public Affairs is 782-4705.

The fax number is 782-7568.